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ABSTRACT

A project augmented instruction in writing skills given to learners in the Crawford County (Pennsylvania) READ Program with staff development that involved tutors and learners in a paired workshop setting. Four staff development workshops were conducted for tutor-learner pairs on improving writing instruction and skills. Four follow-up workshops were conducted within 6 weeks following the initial workshop to reflect on the experience, deal with questions and issues, and share writing. Participant evaluations showed overwhelming satisfaction with writing workshops. The quantity of writing submitted for publication in "READers' Writings" increased, both from workshop participants and nonparticipants. Improvement in written thought development occurred more rapidly in the participant group than in the nonparticipant group. Technical writing skills tended to progress at approximately the same rate in both groups. Five hundred copies each of two issues of "READers' Writings" were published and distributed. (Copies of the two issues are appended.) (YLB)

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ED 395 133

Writing Instruction for RREADers' Writings

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July 1, 1994 - June 30, 1995

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Project #98-5019 - $4,250

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ABSTRACT

TITLE: Writing Instruction for "READer's Writings"

PROJECT NO.: 98-5019 FUNDING: $4,250
PROJECT DIRECTOR: Jane B. Martin PHONE: 814-337-7323
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PURPOSE: This project was designed to augment the instruction in writing skills given by tutors to learners in the Crawford County READ Program, to improve the writing skills of learners, to increase staff development activities for tutors, to publish more, higher quality learner writings in "READers' Writings" and to determine through study if working with both tutors and learners together in a paired workshop setting is an effective method for future staff development projects.

PROCEDURES: 1) Four staff development workshops were conducted for tutor-learner pairs on improving writing instruction and skills. 2) Four follow-up workshops for each group attending the above workshops were conducted within 6 weeks following the initial workshop to reflect on the experience, deal with questions and issues and to share writings. 3) Five hundred copies each of two issues of "READers' Writings" were published and distributed through the county library system. 4) Questionnaires were completed by workshop participants concerning the effectiveness of each individual workshop and the project as a whole. 5) The writings of the participant group and a non-participant control group were evaluated and compared for quantity and improvement in technical writing skills and thought development.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS: Participant evaluations showed overwhelming satisfaction with writing workshops, and the quantity of writings submitted for publication in "READers' Writings" increased, both from workshop participants and non-participants. It was also found that improvement in written thought development occurred more rapidly in the participant group than in the non-participant group. Technical writing skills tended to progress at approximately the same rate in both groups.

TARGET AUDIENCE: Tutor-learner pairs in the Crawford County READ Program and literacy providers utilizing volunteer tutors.

PRODUCTS: Two issues of "READers' Writings," a collection of learner compositions.
Final report

FINAL REPORT - PROJECT #98-5019

Writing Instruction for READers' Writings

Crawford County Literacy Council, Inc.

July 1, 1994 - June 30, 1995

INTRODUCTION

The Crawford County READ Program, sponsored by the Crawford County Literacy Council, is an adult literacy project which utilizes volunteer tutors for one-on-one instruction of adults lacking basic skills. The program focuses mainly on improving reading skills, but also provides instruction in math, life skills, and GED preparation.

Although the READ Program is dedicated primarily to teaching reading, writing is considered an important skill which can enhance reading skills by improving spelling and increasing sight vocabulary. By encouraging learners to formulate and express thoughts more precisely, writing can also aid in the improvement of reasoning and comprehension skills. Research has shown that retention and understanding of information in any subject area is increased with the reinforcement of writing.

Writing is a distinct, necessary skill that requires a great deal of practice and instructional time. It is a learned ability. Good writing is likely to come through confidence gained from successful experiences. It is only

through actual writing that the learner can see that s/he is able to write.

In the past four years, the READ Program has attempted to encourage writing by publishing learners' writings in a quarterly magazine entitled READers' Writings. The magazine is distributed throughout the county through its nine libraries. Items for READers' Writings are submitted by learners or tutors and printed exactly as written, with no editing or correction. Learners who are reluctant to write or whose skills are not developed enough to do so are encouraged to illustrate the cover page or the stories of others. We have also periodically included language experience writings.

During the first three years of publication, submissions to READers' Writings decreased regularly to the point that only one issue per year could be printed. Monthly reports from tutors indicated that fewer and fewer tutors were providing writing instruction in lessons, even though it was increasingly emphasized in tutor training workshops.

During this time the READ Program was also experiencing the problem of low attendance at staff development workshops offered for tutors. In addition, coordinators of the program were concerned when monthly tutor reports did not indicate complete compliance with the Individual Education Plans (IEPs) developed for each learner, especially in reference to writing instruction.

The following 353 project was developed to address three needs: more writing instruction for learners, better tutor attendance at staff development activities, and higher quantity and quality of writings for READers' Writings. This project was carried out during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1994 and ending June 30, 1995. The goals of the project were as follows:

1) Conduct four staff development workshops for tutor learner pairs focused on the improvement of writing instruction and skills.

2) Conduct four follow-up workshops, one for each group attending the above workshops, within six weeks of the initial meeting to reflect on the experience, deal with questions and share writings.

3) Publish five hundred copies each of two issues of READers' Writings and distribute them through the county library system.

It was hoped that an increase in writing instruction would occur in regular lessons as a result of the focus on writing in the workshops. It was also hoped that tutors would feel more inclined to attend staff development workshops if they included learners and could be used as a substitute for one of the two weekly lessons normally planned by tutor-learner pairs.

This project was planned and coordinated by AmeriCorps*VISTA Pamela R. Logsdon, READ Program Director Jane B. Martin, and Assistant Coordinator Patricia Reynolds.

Writing workshops were led by Pamela R. Logsdon and READ Program coordinators.

This project is intended for use by adult literacy providers who utilize volunteer tutors on a one-on-one basis. Funding was made available for the carrying out of this project by the Bureau of Adult Basic and Literacy Education, PA Department of Education, 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333. Permanent copies of this report will be filed at AdvancE, PA Department of Education, at the above address, and at the Western Pennsylvania Adult Literacy Resource Center, 5347 William Flynn Hwy., RT. 8, Gibsonia, PA 15044-9644.

BODY OF THE REPORT

Statement of the Problem

Writing is a necessary skill which requires instruction and practice to develop. It is also a skill which can greatly enhance the learning process in reading and in all other subject areas. Because of this, it is important for literacy councils utilizing volunteer tutors to provide incentive and training for writing instruction. The READ Program believes that providing opportunities for tutors and learners to work together in developing writing instruction

and creating venues for the exhibition of learner works can encourage more extensive writing study in regular lessons.

Goals and Objectives

This project was designed to augment the writing instruction given by tutors to learners in the Crawford County READ Program, to increase tutor participation in staff development activities and to publish learner writings. To accomplish these goals the following objectives were set:

1) Conduct four staff development workshops for tutor-learner pairs focused on the improvement of writing instruction and skills. Two of these workshops were to be held in Meadville and two in Titusville.

2) Conduct four follow-up workshops, one for each group trained, within six weeks after the initial workshop to deal with questions or to augment issues raised during the first workshop.

3) Publish five hundred copies each of two issues of <u>READers' Writings</u> during the program year. Distribute them through the county library system.

Procedures

General Design: Tutors and learners in the READ Program were invited to participate in collaborative staff development workshops designed to teach better writing skills. The workshops were structured so that time would be available for the pairs to practice skills as they were taught. They were encouraged to have more writing instruction during lesson times. Within six weeks of the initial workshop, the groups were re-convened to reflect on the experience, deal with questions and issues which had come up in lessons since the initial workshop, and to share writings.

Although the workshops were open to all tutor-learner pairs in the READ Program, specific pairs were targeted and encouraged to attend the workshops by coordinators, particularly when better writing skills were part of the learner's goals. Workshops were advertised in the READ Program quarterly newsletter and through individual contact with specific pairs.

Several topics were addressed in the workshops. The most important topic was overcoming the anxiety of putting words on paper. Often learners will be reluctant to write because of spelling and grammar problems, and because of the seeming permanency of written information. Because of this we focused a large amount of time on the editing process. Learners were taught that their initial copy of whatever

they'd written was not the final version. They learned to spell words phonetically and then look them up afterwards. They learned to use other people as a spelling resource and were reassured that even good readers and writers do this from time to time. They also learned that creative writing is often more flexible regarding punctuation and grammar than other kinds of writing. All these things made them less worried about putting their own words down on paper.

Another obstacle for our learners is knowing what to put down on paper. Many of them, when asked to write something, will say "I don't have anything to say about that," but when questions are asked about the topic, it is found that they actually have extensive thoughts on the subject.

To overcome this problem, tutors were trained to ask questions that lead learners to an expression of their thoughts. Learners were taught that any thought can be written out in words. This process helped many of them to formulate ideas in a coherent manner and to continue expanding on thoughts in writing.

Location and Facilities: Crawford County is a rural area in the northwest corner of Pennsylvania. Although tutoring takes place county-wide in all the small communities, the two offices of the READ Program are located in Meadville and Titusville. Most program activities take place in these offices. Two of the writing workshops were held in Meadville and two in Titusville. Follow-up

workshops were held at the same locations as the initial workshops they followed. Both offices have meeting rooms in which the workshops were held. READers' Writings was prepared in Meadville on Allegheny College's NeXT computer system.

Methods and Materials: The primary method used in these workshops was a whole language learner-centered approach to train tutors and learners together, encouraging hands-on practice of activities as each principle is taught. This method has previously been employed very successfully by the Center For Literacy in Philadelphia. It has produced better quality tutoring and learner progress. It has been proven to aid in learner retention because the learner feels more of an integral part of decisions made regarding instruction. Learners are better able to meet their educational goals by taking this active role in deciding the content of lessons. Because the learner is happy with the content, the experience is much more satisfying for the tutor also.

The writing instruction components of the workshops were developed from numerous sources and years of practical tutoring experience. Resources included the Center for Literacy's Adult Literacy Handbook for Students and Tutors and Staff Orientation Manual For Adult Basic and Literacy Education Providers (353 Special Project 99-3032, 1993); Delaware County Literacy Council Tutor Training; Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council's Trainer's Manual; Training by

Design, Laubach Literacy Action; and Anthony Mollica's A Picture is Worth...1000 Words...Book 1, Soleil Publishing, Inc.

Meeting the Objectives

Objective #1: The first objective of this project was to conduct four staff development workshops for tutor-learner pairs focused on the improvement of writing instruction and skills. Two of the workshops were to be held in Meadville and two in Titusville. This objective was accomplished, with workshops taking place in Meadville on Friday, December 2, 1994 and Wednesday, April 12, 1995. Workshops occurred in Titusville on Thursday, December 8, 1994 and Friday April 7, 1995. Attendance at these workshops was as follows:

Meadville:	December 2, 1994	15
	April 12, 1995	8
Titusville:	December 8, 1994	18
	April 7, 1995	10

Objective #2: The second objective was to conduct four follow-up workshops, one for each group trained, within six weeks of the initial workshop to deal with questions or

augment issues raised during the first workshop. These follow-ups were held in Meadville on Friday, January 13 and Wednesday, April 26, 1995. Follow-ups occurred in Titusville on Thursday, January 19 and Friday, April 21, 1995. The attendance for each of the follow-up workshops was as follows:

Meadville	January 13, 1995	11
	April 26, 1995	5
Titusville	January 19, 1995	19
	April 21, 1995	8

Workshops were focused on whole language techniques which allow the learner to be highly involved in his/her own instruction. Special attention was given to the editing process and to overcoming the initial anxiety of putting words on paper. Although the workshops were designed to address issues in creative writing, some exercises in practical writing such as note writing and school excuse writing were undertaken during the follow-up workshops at the request of tutor and learner participants.

Techniques were introduced and then time was given for pairs to practice. If a tutor or learner arrived without a partner, they were paired with another partnerless person or with a staff member for the purpose of participation in workshop activities. Tutors were paired with learners when

possible and with other tutors when not. Learners were paired only with tutors or staff members. Learner participants' educational level ranged from second grade to GED.

Workshops were presented and facilitated by Pamela R. Logsdon, Tutor/Learner Coordinator of the Crawford County READ Program and AmeriCorps*VISTA, and READ Program coordinators.

Objective #3: The third objective of this project was to publish 500 copies each of two issues of the magazine READers' Writings. This objective was carried out and included writings by both workshop participants and non-participants. The editing and layout of the magazines were done by Pamela R. Logsdon on Allegheny College's NeXT computer system using a version of WordPerfect. The magazines were distributed throughout the county through the nine libraries of the Crawford County Federated Library System.

Evaluation

Each of the staff development workshops was evaluated with an informal written evaluation tool completed by participants. The evaluation contained questions regarding content, relevance, presentation, and overall value of the workshop. Scores from these evaluations were averaged to

yield an overall participant satisfaction score for the eight workshops of 92.7%. The highest participant satisfaction score was 97.5% on April 26; the lowest was 82.5% on April 7. It was also found that 63.4% of all participants came to more than one workshop, with 14.7% attending all offerings in their geographic area.

It was hoped that these workshops would precipitate an increase in writing instruction during regular lesson times and an increase in learner writings for READers' Writings. It was found that writing instruction increased among participant pairs substantially, and more writings were submitted. The amount of writing instruction among non-participant pairs did not noticeably increase, however, learner submissions to READers' Writings from non-participant pairs did increase to some degree. It is believed that publicity for the writing workshops in our newsletter and in individual letters may have hightened learner awareness of READers' Writings.

Progress among participant learners has been fairly easy to track, as tutors for this group have been faithfully turning in monthly reports and writings. Generally, learners who participated in the workshops have shown improvement in the amount of writing they engage in, written thought development, and organization. Most have shown slight improvement in spelling and punctuation as they become aware of their ability to edit what they write before turning it in. Only one participant failed to illustrate

any improvement in writing skills. It is worth noting, however, that this learner, although extremely enthusiastic, is limited by a mental handicap.

It was more difficult to track progress among non-participants because tutors in this group are less likely to address their learners' writing difficulties in monthly reports and do not often send learner writing for inclusion in the learner portfolio or READers' Writings. However, a slight increase in submissions for READers' Writings has been noted among non-participants. Progress among non-participant learners in writing skills has continued at a level comparable to that observed prior to this project.

Conclusions and Recommendations

It was found that these workshops did precipitate an increase in writing instruction and progress in writing skills among tutors and learners in the READ Program. It was also found that tutors are more likely to attend staff development workshops if they include learners and can be counted as a regular lesson. However, the decrease in attendance over the course of the project, even though questionnaires indicate strong participant satisfaction, indicates that a wider variety of topics needs to be addressed in planning paired workshops. It is therefore

recommended that paired workshops be used in the future addressing many topics other than writing.

READers' Writings

by New Readers

Crawford County Literacy Council, Inc.
Vol. 11, June 1995

Volume 11 February 1995

READers' Writings accepts submissions of poetry, prose, and art from new readers and tutors in the Crawford County READ Program. Volume 11 contains submissions compiled between February 1995 and June 1995.

The writings are as close to the original copy as possible. There has been no editing for spelling, punctuation, grammar, capitalization or content. Words were not added or omitted.

Tutors, please share this booklet with your learner. ENCOURAGE your new reader to contribute to the next one! EACH NEW READER HAS SOMETHING SPECIAL TO SHARE!

New issues of READer's Writings will be printed when we have enough submissions to do so. Submissions should be mailed to or dropped off at the READ offices in either Meadville or Titusville.

Thanks to the following tutors who have encouraged their new readers to submit items for this issue:

Missy Hawk	Mickey Gustafson
Heather Jager	Elizabeth Pazin
Hank Weymer	Cindi Bilinski
Mary Chatley	Mona Wright
Paul Koehler	Rita Goldberg

Crawford County READ Program
June 1995

READers' Writings
Volume 11

Crawford County READ Program
Crawford County Literacy Council, Inc.

How to Let Go

I was at Walnut Street in 1987. That's when I met J.D. and J.R. J.D. was my neighbor and is my best friend. Then he went away for four years and I stood by him. While he was away, I met J.R. He was working out in the yard of Christ Church. Then I needed him for four long years while J.D. was away. When he was working outside we used to pick on each other. And when I needed help in my apartment, I used to ask come over. Then, J.D. and I kept in touch by letters. Then I had to move up on Terrace Street. In 1991. Then I met Mom #2 and Ed. We got to be friends. Then Mom #2 moved out in 1992. And it was hard for me because it hurt. I felt like I was losing my best friend over again. Because we used to go up at her house and have fun. When she left she told me to take care Ed. And she gave me the key to his apartment. I did until March 1995. And I told his girlfriend take care of Ed because he had asthma so bad.

I'm still seeing J.D. when I can. And J.R. in the summertime.

How to let go is sad, but you can live through it.

- Mary Stewart

Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
You're special to me,
I love you.

-Karla Weiss

Basketball Sequesces

When its time for a basketball game. the coaches get together with their players and say a little something to make the team believe their going to win the game. the sport caster call each Player name out over micrhophone, they come out and give one another hi fives. The players get in a group and say a little something we will win. First the coache put the best players out on the floor to play. Then the bench players get a chanse to play. So they may rest. Next it time for all the players to rest. so now its halftime - this last about thirty minutes. At this time the spirtscasters talk about how the game is going, and how the players ahve been playing. Halftime is over now, its time to play the last tow quarters. The players are playing as hard as they can to wrap the game up. Finally the teacm with the highest score wins. The sppportscastors get to talk with the player who was the most out standing player. He shares his thought, and tall how he played to win the game.

-Larry Wofford

My dogs

One name is Bear he is the mad one he does not like other people until he get to know you and he will like you for his friend. I have one more dog her name is little Misfix she is a real nice dog she is sweet and she just loves people and she is funny and she loves to play with her toys and likes to sleep with us in bed. Bear does the same thing that she does.

-M.W.

It was early summer of 1979 and I was 6 months pregnant with my first child, huracain David was due to hit Chas. South Cal. My husband had to go to work and I was left alone, the wind was blowing hard and loud, what I did not know that 3 turnado's toouched down at folly road where we lived. most of the people left the Island, I started to get scared I could not wailt till my husband retured, finally he did come home, we prepared as best as we could for David. The scary part is that he and his friend almost did not make back to James Inland, because they did not want to let anyone on the inland but fineully they talked them into it.

All night long the wind howeled and the storm rose, we laid in our bed not really able to sleep with the sound of the creeking roof of oour tiny apartment, praying that all would be well. fineally with no electric and no food or water we made it to the next day. we were both thankful to see morning come, we got dressed and walked out side, there were trees down and power lines all around so we could not walk very far the sky had a strange haze to it, but the worst was over, we had made it. We heard from a South Carl high patrol who stoooped to see if we were all right that he had to arrest kids who went surfing during the storm he said it was going to be a long week and it was for him,because he stopped 3 days after the storm to let us know my mother in law was worried about us, he had not been home in 4 days, so we prayed with him and he thanked us, so we wnt and called home, Ed on one phone at the mall and me on another, every one was glad to get over this storm, especially me.

- Becky Seyler

I like physical ativities Such as hores back riding fishing and swimming because They are outdoor things to do and it keep me in shape.

I like Christmas be cause I am with my Son Bobby and my family and thier children I buy mom a plant and I have corree with my Dad all the children play with thier guinea pig and animals.

-Jennifer Marie Harmon

IF STORE 24 IS OPEN

24 HOURS A DAY

7 DAYS A WEEK

365-366 DAYS A YEAR

WHY DO THEY PUT LOCKS ON THE FRONT DOORS

WHY DO WE DRIVE ON A PARKWAY

AND

PARK ON A DRIVE WAY

- Dale Brooks

"Christians overcome Sin"

Today in this modern socity Christians can overcome sin in their life.
Being, the children of God, We are the people of the future.
We risist temptation and corruption that life itself takes it course. So, as you go through your trials and tribulations everyday, the victory is satisfying to the baptized soul.
For a christian to over come, our prays to the Lord Jesus Christ. that is what become our communication line to God, but most importantly praise the Lord in every aspect of your life. Worship Christ the Savior, in good times and bad times.
Once you have given your confession of your wrong doing, just go on with your life, because God forgives you. Its very important to forgive yourselve.
Enjoy the peace, happiness and everlasting life, god promises
Remeber Phippians 4:13
I can do all things in Christ which strenghenth me.

May God Bless you Always

- Theresa McFarland

To The READ Program

my Name is Greg Cornwell. This to Let you know I go to vallonia. I Like Doing New Jobs.
I Like doing my Goals. I Like my boss Joanie.

I Got a Good Family. I Like in Linesville. my Life has been Good.

I Have been Reading my Books and doing my home work.

I Got New friends. I have a Dad Named John Cornwell he lives in Erie.
I have 3 brothers and 1 sisther. The one brother I live with. this Name is Russ.

I have one Brother That Live in Delawhere City his name is John Cornwell.

I Have A brother Paul That Lives in Townville. His Name is Paul Cornwell.

I Have a Sisther Named Sylvia Lives in Centerville. Her Lost name is Whirley.

I Have Two 1/2 Sisthers And 3 Sisther in Laws. Thar Names are Nancy Janelle and Joanne.

My hapes are Bowling Fishing and Runing and helping out.
i Like Being with friends and Family.

I like Going out to Eat. I have Four Nephews and 5 Nieces.

-Greg Cornwell

How I met John

We went to school together. And his brother had a crush on me. One day I went to his birthday party and his Mom fell in love with me. I had braces up to my back and I had this operation. It took me a while, but one day got my cast off. i made up my mind to walk. In my bedroom I try to walk and I did it without my Mom. One Sunday I was going to go to John's house and his Mom came into the house. I was by the Kitchen sink and I put my walker aside and told them to wait there and watch me. And I walked to John's Mom. The two years later John's Mom died. I was supposed to go to John's house that Sunday them John called tell me not to come down.

Then he called me back that night and told me what happened. The next night I went to the funeral home to see his Mom. And we all broke down especially me. His sister Mary held me. The years went on and John and I broke up and made up. I went my way. He went his way. Until his Dad dies and I seen how John lived. When his Dad died I had to step in and help him. We been happy ever since.

- Mary Stewart

There was a man who thought he needed no one but himself.

He learned to play music and to sing. But he became sad for there was no one to sing to or to play his music to.

He learned to write poems. But he became sad for there was no one to read his poems to.

He spent many more years learning ot dance, sailing, skiing and many more hobbies. But he became sad for there was no one to share what he had learned.

Then this man remember he never learned how to be just himself. When he did he found someone to share all of himself. Know this man is a hole person not just for himself but for all he meets.

-Dale Brooks

Dec. 9, 1992

I haven't done much of anything since Monday, except going to the Y. yesterday morning and last night, then back homework.

I waas in bed by 9:30 last night. About 1:30 my sons came in and said there was no ceiling lights. We had to go down into the cellar and find the fuses. one of the fuses was blowed. So we just changed the fuse: Then back to bed until 9:30 this morning.

-Ruby Bryan

My oldest daughter Sarah was home for a over night visit a week ago. it was a nice visit, every thing went well. The first night she made dinner she made sweet and sour pork and rice, and baked a cake from scatch, it was really good. She is a good cook.

She had a sleep over with some friends and her youngest sister Rebekah, they had pizza we had fun.

Then in the morning she and a friend and I went down town.

Then her friend went home and Sarah and I went to Second Chance and had lunch together, she brought a formal dress and jacket it looked very nice on her.

Then we left and went window shopping, then went to her Aunt's then back home, but all to soon it was over, but it was nice and every one had a good time.

-Becky Seyler

My heart is being filled with love.

My heart is being filled with hope.

My heart is being filled with dreams.

I know it is time to give to another what I have in my heart.

-Dale Brooks

The stories on the following pages are the result of collaborative exercises undertaken during writing workshops throughout the year. Pictures used with the writings were taken from *A picture is worth...1000 words...Book 1*, by Anthony Mollica, Soleil Publishing, Inc.

Roger Hallet, *The Globe and Mail*

Bank Robbers Found

The FBI found the bank robbers because they were driving the car foolishly. So the FBI guys stopped them with some cops. Of course, there has to be cops involved. And the dumb bank robbers had the money laying in the back seat. So the FBI knew they had to be the bank robbers.

-Cindy Mott and Mickey Gustafson

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Truth or Consequences!

One million dollars belongs to one of these three men; but which one? A popular game show of the 1980's staged people who were questioned by participants.

The real millionaire would be aked to stand. If participants guessed correctly they were awarded prizes.

Now it's your turn - but you may ask no questions. Simply look into the faces of these gentlemen and make a guess. If you're correct the one million dollars will be yours! (NOT!)

-Jane Martin

Staff, *Canada Wide*

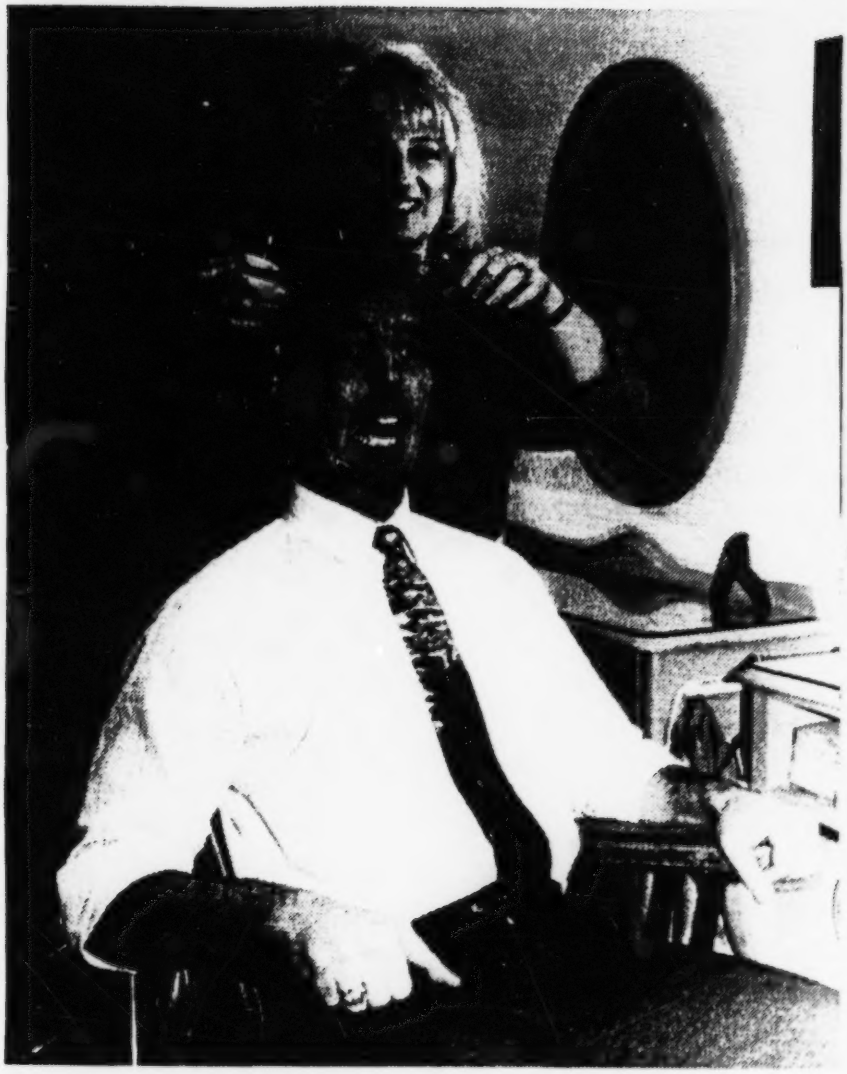
Kids Driving Parade Cars

Tommy got up early in the morning, ate a bowl or Cheerios, and got dressed. he was very excited about being in the parade. he couldn't find his shoes, but his mother daid "they're right where you left them" to get him to remember. "Oh! there they are," he said happily.

He got his jacket and driving helmet from the coat closet. His mother told him "Hurry up or we're gonna be late." "O.K." he said, "I'll be ready in a minute," and he ran out the door. His dad helped him load his soap box car on the back of the truck. They got to town and unloaded the car out of the truck and got into position at the start of the parade. The parade started on time. Tommy and his friends drove their cars in the parade and did figure eights. Tommy was driving a little too fast, and a policeman stopped him and told him to slow down. The crowd boo'd because they liked what him and his friends were doing. It made the crowd excited.

Tommy and his friends did a good performance, and they won first prize and a big trophy. The boys were in Boy Scouts and decided to put their trophy on display in a car museum.

-Marie Black and Pam Logsdon



Grace Beauchamp, *The Welland Evening Tribune*

The Man at the Beauty Salon

The Man walked into the beauty salon and told the lady he wanted his hair cut. He sat down in the chair and she picked up two pair of scissons. She acted like she would cut off all his hair. He screamed and grabbed the arms of the chair. The man said, "What are you going to do to my hair?" He sat there and told her the right way to cut his hair.

After the beautician was done he said he would not come back there again. He paid and ran out.

- Rita Firster

Bad Hair Day

Last Monday Robert went to Jane's beauty paror. While she was giving him his monthly trim someone came in the front door and startled her.

It was her old friend Pat whom she hadn't seen for years. She was so excited to see Pat that she cut a big chunk out of Robert's hair creating a bald spot on the side of his head. It was very noticeable.

Jane tried to explain to Robert what had happened and he became hysterical. He was mad enough about the haircut and really upset that Pat took the picture. He thought he was being discreet about where he had his hair done. After Robert calmed he forgave her for the mess she made of his hair. After all it would grow back. After wards they all laughed about it. It seemed funny then. Jane said, "This one's on the house." Pat laughed along with them and apologized for causing Jane's big mistake. Any time his friends would remark on his haircut he just laughed and said. "Oh, this is my new style I'm trying out."

-M.W. and Mary Chatley

Craig Robertson, *Canada Wide*

Santa and the little girl.

The little girl and santa are going down the street. Santa is singing and his feet are going. he looks like he is enjoying himself. He looks like a skinny Santa, but he looks like he is jolly. They're going down on 34th Street. It's cold out that day. Maybe the little girl is asking Santa why he's so jolly. Santa isn't wearing real boots. They look like shoes with black and white fur at the top.

-Paula Phillips

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

My Dad at Christmas

My dad is 58 years old and still believes in Santa Clause. He loves to decorate the house at Christmas and he puts lights on the bushes outside so Santa can find the house.

Although I am 24 years old, he still makes me go to bed early on Christmas Eve. He says that Santa Clause comes to see if I am sleeping. he loves to make candy at Christmas so he can leave some for Santa, but I know hw eats it himself.

Christmas day is always fun, except when Dad tries to assemble things we get. He never bothers to read directions. He gets frustrated when he can't put them together right.

My favorite Christmas didn't even happen in December at all. We has Christmas in July and decorated our back porch with a Christmas tree. We made artificial snow by unraveling old white satin Christmas ornaments and draping the strings around the yard and over the clothes line.

The reason we had Christmas in July is that my cousins from Florida were visiting and we never had Christmas with them before.

My dad even dressed up as Santa Clause except he wore red shorts. The people in the factory next door from our house pointed and laughed and thought we were crazy.

We exchanged names so that each of us would get a gift. The gifts were small and sometimes silly. It was the best Christmas I ever had.

-P.L. and Mona Wright

Crawford County READ Program

966 1/2 Park Ave.
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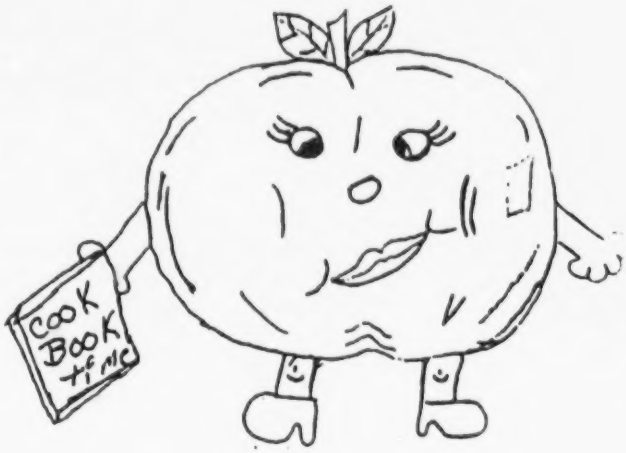
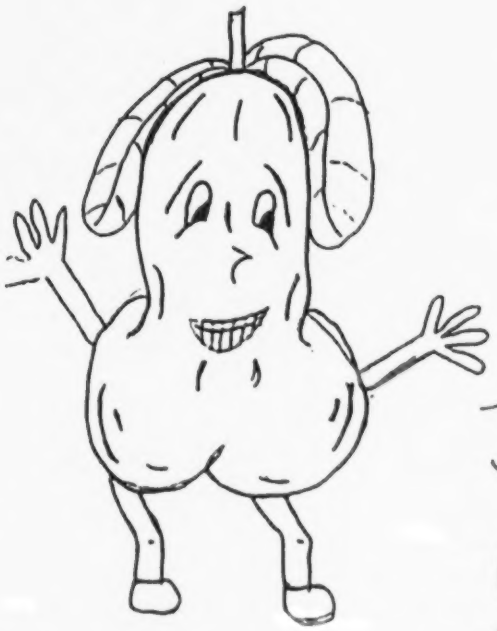
READers' Writings





By NEW Readers

Crawford County
READ Program
Vol.10

Cover by Jessie Knox

Volume 10 February 1995

READers' Writings accepts submissions of poetry, prose, and art from new readers and tutors in the Crawford County READ Program. Volume 10 contains submissions compiled between September 1994 and February 1995.

The writings are as close to the original copy as possible. There has been no editing for spelling, punctuation, grammar or capitalization. Words were not added or omitted.

Tutors, please share this booklet with your learner. ENCOURAGE your new reader to contribute to the next one! EACH NEW READER HAS SOMETHING SPECIAL TO SHARE!

New issues of READers' Writings will be printed when we have enough submissions to do so. Submissions should be mailed to or dropped off at the READ offices in either Meadville or Titusville.

Thanks to the following tutors who have encouraged their new readers to submit items for this issue:

Betty Heffern
Peg Gilman
Marie Hillenbrand
Hank Weymer
Grace Lang
Mary Chatley
Sandra Smith
Paul Koehler
Debbie Coulter
Patricia Peters
Mona Wright
Pat Willshler
Missy Hawk
Dawn Willis

Crawford County READ Program
February 1995

Nov 30

We had a real nice Thanksgiving dinner. I had my and his girl friend and my other son and his family and his wife's father. We shared the dinner. She brought sweet potatoes and white potatoes. I furnished stuffing. It was her turkey.

Her dad furnished the pop. My other son furnished the brown serve rolls.

She made apple crisp. I made two pumpkin pies. I almost screwed them up. I got them into the pie crust and got a taste and they didn't have sugar in.

I had to put the filling back in the bowl and put in the sugar to it.

Wasn't that a fine mess!!

Dec 7

Saturday I brought my Christmas ornaments down. I stuck them up on the windows.

I live downstairs where all the windows got decorations. Santa Claus and his reindeer are on the windows on the porch. My girl friend came and I got her to help me tack them up. Later, her son came and said he'd got a buck. He wanted the key to get in his house. Her husband came back later and asked me to cut a deer up for him. It was nice deer. Nice big steaks.

He gave me two packages of steak and a neck roast

There's some other parts we'll get ground up into hamburger.

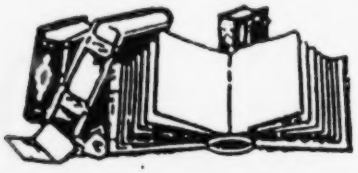
Then later David came running in shouting "Aunt Ruby you've got another one to take care of!" Mike shot it first as it was running away.

He shot it in the hind quarters. Almost right in the butt. Then David finished it off. So Mike kind of gave it to David because it was his first year. Mike's got a Doe License so he still couldn't get one.

- Ruby Bryan

my name is Eva. I have been in read four going on Three years. I'm 42 years old, I'm married, And i live in Titusville. I go to the new-u fitness three times a week and I work out. And I clean there on Saturdays. me and my Husband just brought a new house in November and we are going to fixed it up. This is a dream come true from us.

The Happy Dromedary
by Bernice Freschet
retold by Greg Cornwell



millions and millions of years ago when the birds
beast first came upon the earth the King
of the animals said go and look throughout the land and find a place to live for you may make your home wherever you choose
The leopard and the tiger chose to live in the leafy junge
The bear and the wolf chose the cool shady forest
The rabbit and the mouse chose the Grassy meadow
And the birds chose the tree and The air above the earth in which to make their home
Not many creaturee wanted to Live in the hot sandy desert
But when the dromedary went out into the desert
to find
her place and came to the desert she said
This is Where the Eeys see from horizon
But when the Dromedary went out into the
world to find
her place and came to the
desert she said
This is where I went to live here

-Greg Cornwell

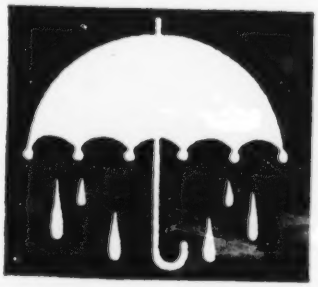
"Love"

Love is a fragile thing
some people just think
its some kind of summer time
People Love other people,
some never will.

Love is like a pill,
you get addicted to it.
Others have never known Love
or never will
There is Pain and Loss in Love.

Sometimes it comes in just
Like a raging storm.
other times people don't
really see it and it passes
them by.
Just Like a Dove.

-Jessie Knox



Spring
sun and raindrops
poured and made a buttful rainbow
and buttful collers
in the springrain.

When I was 3 years old, I Lived in a Home for children. I Lived There for 8 1/2 years. Then I came Home to The country to Live. we went to a one Room School House In Day Town where my parents Lived. we all Liked IT There In The country. we Had Two pigs. The pigs' names were salt and pepper.

- Joan Aldrich

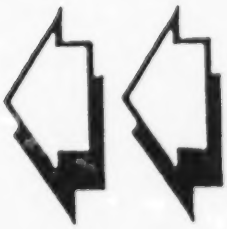
Mother-In-Law

Georgia Cummigs is my Mother-In-Law we get along great. On my days off we go fishing together. One time we went fishing and it was raining, but we kept on fishing any way. On that day I cought a 16" bass.
When my wife and I go shopping we always ask her to come along with us. The reason why my Mother-In-Law and I get along so well, because we are also good friends and we like to do things togather. I believe also the reason we get along so food is that both of us have the Love of god in our hearts, it makes you love all people no matter what race you may be. I believe if more people would have the love of god in there hearts the world would be a better place for us to live.

- Larry L. Wofford

Maps
Finding roads and rivers.
Getting lost, finding your way, and stopping.
finding directions and taking time out, feeling worried, and taking command.
Directions

- R. H.



Valentines
Cards and candy.
Sending a card and candy.
Fun happy In Love feeling
In to sweetheart.

-Ruby L. Bryan

Friendship
Special, Being there.
Loving, Listening, talking
Always understanding, concerned, Smiling, thoughtful
Best Friend

-Eva Justeen Hart

HUNTING SEASON IS HERE!

That moring when I got out of bed I was ready for the deer. I went to my spot in the woods. It was dark outside. Then I waited for awhile. I heard something!

Was it a deer? Yes! I heard the grunting sound but it was still dark....and the deer moved on. Daylight finally came and a squirrel popped out of his nest. I sat and watched him for awhile. Then I heard a noise behind me. I turned and there stood four deer but no buck.

I saw a lot of wild-life and it was fun being in the woods. I'll be back!!

-Brian Weber
January 4, 1995

I would love to learn, how to get
my driver's license. and learn how to
drive and to get some of the queston right.
and then to pass the test to get my
driver's license.

- B. J. S.

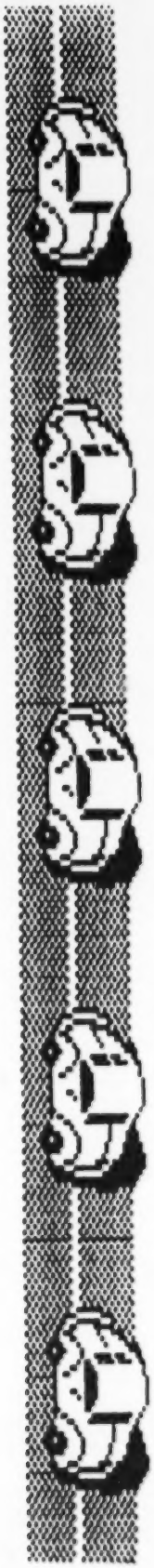
Dress I going to wear for my wedding day.
My dress is short and green and pretty,
comfortable, feeling good.
And it look like a pretty gown to me.

- M. B. W.

Clothes, warm kindness
I felt good!
Barb is always understanding thoughtful.

- Paula Phillips

CHILDREN
LOVEABLE, fulltime
PLAYFUL, INQUISITIVE, ENERGY
THEY MAKE ME CALM!
ENJOYABLE



Chapter 4

It's the third day of the investigation and time was running out. It was now getting dark and they were hot and tired.

Howard went back to the motorhome for the last time, before they would call it quits. As Howard entered the motorhome he tripped and his flashlight went flying under the table. As he bent down to reach for it, the light shown under the seat. There Howard could see two small persons that seemed to be holding up a peice of cloth to cover them selves with.

Howard stood up and called for Larry and the officer. As Larry and the officer arrived at the motorhome, they asked if he had found somehting?

Howard: "Yes"

Larry: What did you fine?

Howard: "If I were to tell you, you would think I was mad". I think it's best if both of you, were to come over here and see it for your selves".

When they bent down and saw what Howard had seen, they were surprised. Immediatly" the officer went back to his car and called in, and informed his captin on what they found.

Before too long there were many state and city police, helpers and doctors and nurses in the area. It was'nt long before the floodlights were up and the night was changed to day. A large motorhome with emergency equipment had arrived and the two small persons were sent there to be examined. By morning most of the people were found and they told us what happen to them. Just about all the stories were the same. Saturday the temperature was one hundred and eleven. The next morning there clothing seemed slightly larger. The temperature for that sunday morning was already in the 90's. That's when they started for home, it was just to hot". The temperature hit 115 and before they knew it, they lost control of their vehicles.

Howard: I have one question to ask all of you. How

many of you were out that saturday night when we were hit by the meteor shower? All the small people put up their hands. Howard looked up at the officers and the others and said, the explosions of the meteors sent a fine dust all over the land, what ever this dust or powder landed on, it leeft some kind of chemical behind. This chemical will start to work when the temperature is hot enough. What I can see, it's from 110 to 115.

Captin: We all had a long night, so lets clean up here. Mr Howard and Mr. Larry, you two should go back and get some need rest. I want to thank you for what you have don down here.

Howard: Well it's time to make that call to the main office, and let them know what we found down here. "Then I'l call home".

Larry: "Your not going home today" are you?

Howard: We been up over twenty-four hrs. and I don't want to or am I going to spend one more hoour down here. I will shower at the motel and eat at the airport and sleep on the plane. How do's that sound Mr. Larry!

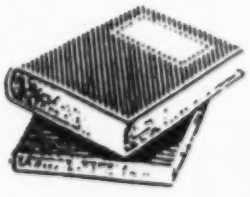
Larry: Than's all right with me, if it's alright with you. The way things are going we don't know how many people will remain normal in this world of ours.

Larry drove Howard to the airport and they had somehting to eat. It was now going on four o'clock and Howard was on the four-twenty flight back to Ohio.

Larry: Now don't forget me" and lets keep in touch. They said their goodbys and Howard was on his way home.

It was ten when Howard walked in the front door. His wife had some food on the table for Howard to eat. She was reading a book. Howard asked his wife what she was reading? She replyed " THE WORLD OF THE LITTLE PEOPLE!

-Pedro Figueroa



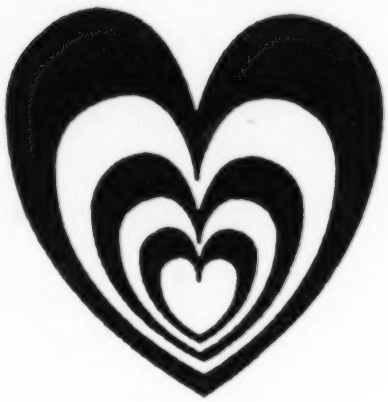
Feelings

My Wife!!!
In my heart---
Our love shines high
In the sky!

-Brian Weber 2-1-95

Favorite Time

The week after Christmas
I like best of all;
The rushing is over,
and friends come to call
The fruit cake is ready
the cookies are made
and leisure for reading
the cards on parade
there's time for relaxing
old dreams to recall
the week after Christmas
I like best of all.



- M. W.

Valentines
Cards, gifts
Loving my father
Love, happy, fun, special,
Love.

- E. P. T.

Working Mother's

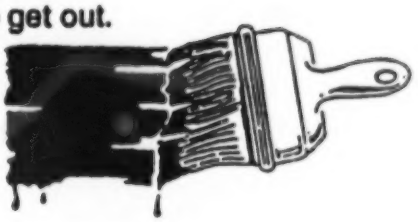
O God, it breaks my heart
to leave this small but sheltered
place.
To shut the door on mother hood
And wear an eager business face.

I want so much to stay at home.
But since it can not be.
O Lord, along with daily bread.
Give extra strength to me.

And let the other mothers know
How forunate are they.
Who keep their happy brood in sight
The long and wondrous day.

- M. W.

Store
Big, Hardware
Buy more tools.
Desire to get out.
Money



Car
color Blue
travel down road
looking at nice scenery country
side

Fear is a great big lion that roars in the moddle of the night. But I must learn to run to the roar because the great big lion has no teeth.
He is a toothless lion who is old and of no worry to me.
Run to the roar, because he will not harm you. Run to the roar and that big allfull lion will turn to a playfull little kitten.

- Becky Ann Seyler
January 19th 1995

What I do own my day off

On my day off I sleep until about one o'clock. I get up take a shower, eat, and afther my food digest I do my daily exercise. Then I sit down and rest awhile. I go cash my check and my girlfriend and I go in town visit my mother, brother, and her mother. After we get done visiting, we go to the stores and shop for Christmas gifts. Finally we come back home wrap all the gifts up and eat dinner. I sit back and watch TV. until I get tired and go to sleep.

- Larry L. Wofford

Love

Love is a special never-ending fealing,
it is affectionate and compelling
it is thoughtful and always giving the best
Love is friendship.

- Becky Ann Seyler

TUTOR PAGES

Family
Love, concern,
helping when able.
Keeping my family close!
Children.

- Mary

READ
ENJOYABLE WORTHWHILE
Thinking while doing
Brings happiness to me
Understandings

- J. M.

Decision
Conflicting Expectations
Choose My priorities
Try to please everyone
Choice.

- Linda R.

STUDENTS
Striving Sharing
Making Real Progress
Feeling Good About Ourselves
LIFE-LONG LEARNERS

- L. W.

Love

Love!! Wonderful!!
Reach out to others---
Smile! Forget Past!
Forgive--- Go on-----.

-Marie Hillenbrand
January 14, 1995

Birthday
Anticipating 100 years old
Singing Happy Birthday
So full from celebration
Mother

School-
Teachers, Grades
Studying for tests!
happy, sad, glad, fear,
Learning!

-Deb

Winter
Strange, warm
happening in Titusville!
Concerned about spring flowers.
Freeze!

Pet
Sam Cat
PussyFooting down stairs
Playful, cuddly, friendly, aggressive
Feline

- D. W. F.

VIEWS ON THE NEWS

When we listen to the news,
There are stories that amuse.
Reports of people who have gone bad
And things that just make us mad.

Did O.J. really do it?
The judge is working through it.
We get witnesses, jurors, books and more
Until even the observers begin to snore.

Often we hear of kids gone bad,
This always makes me feel sad.
Lots of kids are just as good,
But that doesn't seem to be understood.

A new day brings us more news,
And everyone will give their views.
Things aren't always as bad as they seem,
But all this O.J.....
Makes me want to scream!

- Pat W.

TUTOR PAGES

CAN LEARNING BE FUN?

Yes! Learning can be fun. This is especially true when we learn how to read. Just reading words on a page is not the answer. We must see and comprehend the picture rather than concentrate on each individual word. Read slowly but thoughtfully. Imagination plays a role and allows us to be part of the scene. Visualize and enjoy what you see. Become involved and let your mind flow with the story line.

Now put yourself in the following picture as you read. It is a true story, and it happened to my husband and me many years ago and still remains a joyful experience:

> *The sun seemed brighter and larger than usual as we took off from home one morning. We prayed and smiled thinking of the day ahead. Today we were to meet a little girl who would become our daughter. We arrived at our destination and were ushered into a room. A child under one year of age with beautiful red hair and laughing eyes seemed delighted to see us. It was amazing!! She was ours!! She knew it and so did we.*

- Marie Hillenbrand
January 1, 1995

Open a New World

Crawford County READ Program

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